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JAN 09 2007

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A gland packing material wherein said gland packing material comprises a cord member (40) which is formed by stranding a base strip member (4), or winding a base strip member (4) about a longitudinal direction; or winding a base strip member (4) about a longitudinal direction and then stranding said base strip member,

said base strip member (4) comprises: a reinforcing member (20) comprised of a fibrous material (2); and an expanded graphite strip (3),

said reinforcing member (20) is disposed at least on one face of said expanded graphite strip (3), and

both said reinforcing member (20) and said expanded graphite strip (3) are placed on an outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40).

Claim 2 (currently amended): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein one side end edge of said base strip member (4) is placed on an outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40) in the side end edge, one member (4a) of said reinforcing member (20) and said expanded graphite strip (3) is more elongated in a width direction than another member (4b), and

said one member (4a) which is elongated in the width direction is placed on an inner side, and said other member (4b) which is short in the width direction is placed on an outer side, ~~said base strip member (4) is stranded, or~~ said base strip member (4) is stranded after said base strip member is wound about the longitudinal direction, whereby said reinforcing member (20) and said expanded graphite strip (3) are placed in a spiral manner to be alternately arranged in an axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is formed to be smaller in width than said expanded graphite strip (3),

a plurality of said reinforcing members (20) are disposed at least on one face of said expanded graphite strip (3) with intervals formed therebetween in a width direction, and

said smaller in width reinforcing members (20) are placed on an outer side, ~~said base strip member (4) is stranded, or~~ said base strip member (4) is stranded after said base strip member is

wound about the longitudinal direction, whereby said reinforcing members (20) and said expanded graphite strip (3) are wound in a spiral manner to be alternately arranged in an axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein ~~said base strip member (4) is stranded about an intermediate portion in a width direction of said base strip member (4), or~~ said base strip member (4) is stranded after said base strip member is wound about the longitudinal direction in an intermediate portion in the width direction of said base strip member (4), thereby causing both side end edges of said base strip member (4) to be positioned on an outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40),

in one of said side end edges, said reinforcing member (20) is placed on an outer side, and, in another side end edge, said expanded graphite strip (3) is placed on an outer side, whereby said reinforcing member (20) and said expanded graphite strip (3) are placed in a spiral manner to be alternately arranged in an axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40).

Claim 5 (previously presented): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is placed on the outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40), a large number of openings (20A) are formed in said reinforcing member (20), said expanded graphite strip (3) enters said openings (20A), and is exposed from the outer peripheral surface of said cord member (40) through said openings (20A).

Claim 6 (previously presented). A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is disposed only on one face of said expanded graphite strip (3).

Claim 7 (previously presented): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is disposed on both faces of said expanded graphite strip (3).

Claim 8 (previously presented): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said fibrous material (2) is formed into a sheet shape, and said fibrous material sheet comprises a fiber-opened sheet (2B) in which multifilament yarns are opened in a sheet shape.

Claim 9 (original): A gland packing material according to claim 8, wherein a thickness of said fiber-opened sheet (2B) is set to 10 μm to 300 μm .

Claim 10 (previously presented): A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein said fibrous material (2) comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of carbon fibers, brittle fibers, and tough fibers.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A gland packing material according to claim 10, wherein said brittle fibers comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, silica fibers, and ceramic fibers.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A gland packing material according to claim 10, wherein said tough fibers comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, aramid fibers, and PBO fibers.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A gland packing comprising braiding or winding together a plurality of gland packing materials (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 12.